



Conservation Successes – February 2004

Surplus Ammunition Plant Becomes Third Largest Regional Park In Tennessee!

Community obtains site to create a world-class multi-use natural resource park

Chattanooga, TN (January 15, 2004) – The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program transferred 2,757 acres to the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County, Tennessee, for public park and recreation use. This property will become the third largest public regional park, by acreage, in all of Tennessee. Since the inception of the Federal Lands to Parks Program in 1949, this is the sixth largest acreage conveyed to a State or local government nationwide, and the fifth largest conveyance in the Southeast Region.



The property was applied for jointly by the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County, and it will be transferred at no cost to both in a deed currently under preparation. Development will include nature study facilities, hiking and nature trails, wildlife observation stations, opportunities for biking, and fishing.

Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker recently unveiled his Outdoor Chattanooga Initiative to make the outdoors a "signature lifestyle for our community." These 2,700 acres of new parkland are a central part of his multi-level plan and Mayor Corker has committed to "developing this asset in a way that makes it a world-class passive outdoor site." The Southern Appalachian Field Office of the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is currently consulting with the City and others in developing the Outdoor Chattanooga Initiative.

The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.

Newest Certified Site for Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Riverfront Park site helps to tell the story

North Little Rock, AR (January 14, 2004) - Mayor Pat Hays formally announced that the Riverfront Park in the City of North Little Rock is the newest certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The announcement came as part of the Mayor's news conference to initiate the city's year-long celebration of its 100th birthday. Michael Madell, Superintendent of Central High School National Historic Site in Little Rock, presented the mayor with a framed certification plaque.

The Riverfront Park is significant to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail as an important historic site worthy of interpretation. In the years following the Indian Removal Act of 1830, over 40,000 Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole passed through the North Little Rock site. All four Cherokee water detachments passed by the site in 1838-1839. In addition, the John Bell Detachment crossed the site on its journey west.



As a result of certification, the City of North Little Rock is working in partnership with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe, the Trail of Tears Association, and the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole Nations to develop a temporary wayside exhibit in Riverfront Park that will explain the site's significance to Indian Removal and tell the story of each of the associated tribes. The exhibit will be the first step in developing visitor facilities for a more extensive interpretive and commemorative experience of Indian removal in the city. For more information, please contact Andrea Sharon, Nation Trails System, Santa Fe, NM at andrea_sharon@nps.gov or 505-988-6888.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:

- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Hydropower Recreation Assistance (HRA) -
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - National Trails System (NTS) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) -